

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-18 and add the following new claims:

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Sub C1
--19. A memory card for storing data transmitted from an external apparatus,
said memory card comprising:

a flash memory for storing said data transmitted from said external
apparatus;

a switch settable to a state which inhibits writing data into said flash
memory;

an interface for transmitting data to and receiving data from said
external apparatus; and

control means for controlling said memory card in accordance with an
instruction transmitted from said external apparatus, said control means sending to said
external apparatus via said interface the state of said switch in response to an instruction
transmitted thereto via said interface from said external apparatus.--

--20. A memory card as claimed in claim 19, wherein said interface includes
nine connectors at least one of which transmits and receives data.--

--21. A memory card as claimed in claim 19, wherein said data is received
from and transmitted to said external apparatus in serial form.--

Sub C2
--22. A system comprising a memory card and an external apparatus, wherein
data is communicated therebetween,

said memory card comprising:

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a flash memory for storing said data transmitted from said external apparatus;

a switch settable to a state which inhibits writing data into said flash memory;

an interface for transmitting data to and receiving data from said external apparatus; and

control means for controlling said memory card in accordance with an instruction transmitted from said external apparatus, said control means sending to said external apparatus via said interface the state of said switch in response to an instruction transmitted thereto via said interface from said external apparatus;

and said external apparatus comprising:

a controller for writing data to or erasing data from the flash memory of said memory card, said controller transmitting an instruction to said memory card via said interface to determine whether a data writing operation to the flash memory of said memory card is inhibited.--

--23. A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said interface includes nine connectors at least one of which transmits and receives data.--

--24. A system as claimed in claim 22, wherein said data is received from and transmitted to said external apparatus in serial form.--